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PECULIARITIES OF IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATIONS IN ORGANIC FARMING IN UKRAINE

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The development of environmentally-oriented farming systems and management in the agricultural sector is an objective necessity in modern terms, since the implementation of innovative technologies in agricultural activity is often accompanied by exceeding the maximum permissible limits for intensification of production of different directions. Organic agricultural production has become widely spread in the world in recent years. Ukraine also has great potential for development of this area of farming. So, starting with 2000s the organic products market capacity has been rapidly growing (fig. 1).

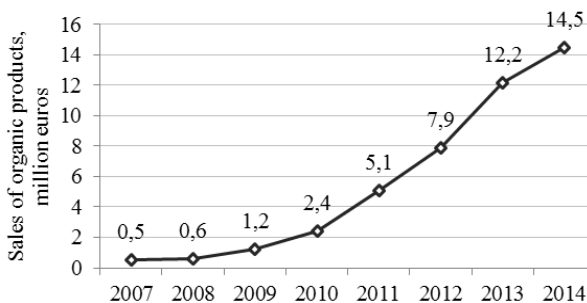


Figure 1. The dynamics of the organic products market capacity in Ukraine

Source: [1]

However, the world practice shows that agroecological methods of production are not limited to organic farming (fig. 2).

For organic production not allowed to use pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, and genetically modified organisms in crop production, as well as hormones, antibiotics and growth promoters in livestock production. In contrast, other areas of ecologically-oriented agricultural production systems allow the use of transgenic plants, certain types of fertilizer, biological and organic preparations, in case of keeping to the rules and standards of acceptable use.

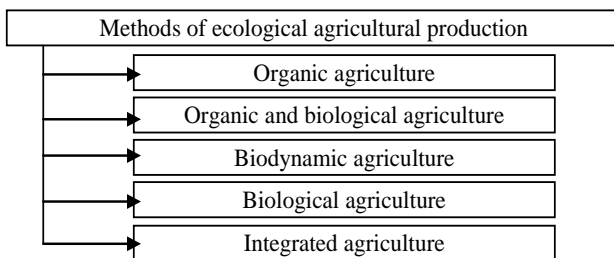


Figure 2. Methods of ecological farming in Europe and USA

Source: [2, p. 117]

On this basis we can say that the range of ecological innovations that can be used in organic agriculture is significantly limited. However, this does not mean that the production of organic products automatically mean a return to long-forgotten ways of farming with the complete absence of innovative technologies. Despite of the fact that the organic type of production doesn't allow to use genetically bred plant varieties which are resistant to pests and diseases as well as modern crop protection chemicals, the implementation of such scientific and technological progress units as GPS navigation and steam treatment of the soil is perfectly acceptable and even desirable.

However, there are some obstacles to introduce innovations in organic farming. The main among them, in our view, are, on the one hand, the high cost of innovation, and on the other - the predominantly small size of organic farms, which leads to their lack of financial capacity for the acquisition and implementation of innovative technologies. In addition organic methods of farming lead to a drastic reduce of productivity (particularly fruit and vegetables production). Therefore, it is important to establish an effective system of state support for organic farming and its innovative activity in particular. This is important also in terms of the competitiveness of domestic organic products in foreign markets, as far as European prices for organic products are higher than conventional products by 20-40%, but not two or more times (as it would be without government support). It is also advisable to pay attention to grounding mechanisms to encourage innovative activity of small producers of organic products on the basis of cooperation and clustering. This issue will be discussed in the further research.

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